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Tuesday, November 8, 2011

THENSINGNEWS

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"AN INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED BUDGET SYSTEM LICENSEE"

Jackson doctor found guilty of manslaughter

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter yeysterday over the King of Pop's death in June 2009, the court clerk said.

REE

Cheers erupted outside and someone cried out in the court room, but a grim-faced Murray himself gave no reaction when the long-awaited verdict was announced after a six-week trial in Los Angeles.

Jackson's family -- led by mother Katherine and father Joe -- were in court to hear the verdict.

Murray faces up to four years in jail and could be banned from practicing medicine after his conviction in connection with Jackson's death from an overdose of propofol on June 25, 2009.

Since opening on September 27, the trial at Los Angeles Superior Court has heard from 49 witnesses -- 33 for the prosecution, and 16 for the defense.

In his closing arguments last week, Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said Murray caused the star's death through negligence and greed, depriving Jackson's children of their father and the world of a "genius."

Walgren, summing up an "overwhelming case" against Murray, claimed the medic concocted lies to cover his tracks - specifically about the timeline on the day Jackson died, and not telling paramedics what drugs he had given.

He alleged that Murray above all wanted to protect his \$150,000 a month salary for looking after Jackson, describing how the doctor agreed to treat the star's insomnia with the anesthetic propofol against all medical advice.

The defense, meanwhile, argued that Jackson was a desperate drug addict who caused his own death by taking more medicines while Murray was out of the room at the star's rented mansion in Los Angeles.

Defense attorney Ed Chernoff claimed that Murray was "a little fish in a big dirty pond," alleging that key witnesses conspired to agree on a story after Jackson died.

The 58-year-old medic will remain in custody until a planned November 29 sentencing hearing

Islanders still "Think Pink" for breast cancer awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and many companies and agencies launch campaigns to raise awareness among women and their families of the importance of regular self-examination and understanding of the latest advances in detecting and curing this most common strain striking both men and

women

On Aruba, the Mary Joan Foundation volunteers, many of them breast cancer sur-

vivors, are active in organizing events and raising funds to help victims and their families with counseling and practical assistance. A few years ago they organized with Ateliers '89 Art Center the first Bra Art exposition, which traveled to Curacao. Images of the creative works produced by that first effort were incorporated into an attractive birthday calendar and 2011 agenda, both of which were sold to raise funds for the

foundation. A number of the bras were finally sold to collectors to also help the foundation.

Ateliers '89 is again hosting a Bra Art exposition, which opened as part of the ARUBA IN STYLE/Salon Fashion Week on Saturday evening, November 5. The call went out and 18 artists answered it; many of them quite young, as the original idea was to limit

the age range for entries by artists 14 to 20 years old, though others wanted so much to participate, their work was accepted as well.

The current exhibit is intriguing and often poignant. "Love and Hope" was not only conveyed by the bra art, but on hand painted tee



shirts worn by the young artists.

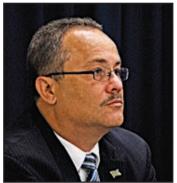
Continued on page 4







Buying power needs to be re-visited and revamped asserts the government



ORANJESTAD -- Despite the fact that the general cost of living adjustment is not decreed by law, the government of Aruba recognizes that employees are entitled to recoupe some of the loss of their buying power. In the national social dialogue which began in earnest last Thursday, the intention is to at least include this matter in a protocol.

On Friday, Minister of Finance, Mike de Meza, presided over the National Social Dialogue meeting dealing with the issue of cost of living adjustment. De Meza recalled how last year the economic situation was very difficult with a drop of 9% in 2009, and in 2010 this was at 4%. Nonetheless, the government was able to agree to a cost of living adjustment in 2011 and to increase other stipends to civil servants. Also, the private sec-

tor received stipends and the reduction of the BBO (Turnover Tax Revenue) from 3 to 1.5%. According to De Meza, this was all an indication of their resolve to improve the buying power of each citizen, and particularly of those earning the least in our community.

Grant you, there is no law to support a cost of living adjustment, however, the government is of the conviction that whenever the cost of living increases, everyone in general needs to somehow recoupe in the form of some form of cost of living adjustment. This adjustment is customarily included in collective working agreements in the private sector.

According to de Meza... "we must always take the approach that the employee must exercise the right to improve his financial situation. And, it behooves us now to find ways to meet and carry that responsibility in a responsable fashion."

The Minister believes that this issue must be put into a protocol so as to avoid a repeat of the embarrasing situation that occured last year. In a formal protocol everyone would be cognizant of what to expect and how to handle the situation.



Brazil intent on capitalizing on Aruba's strategic position between Europe and the Dutch Kingdom



ORANJESTAD -- Several months ago, the government of Aruba invited several strategic economic partners in the economy of Aruba to begin developing a game plan to capitalize on Aruba's strategic position in the region. They were also to explore the possibilities for an interchange on a growing economy such as that of Brazil and Europe and visa versa.

This led to the start of different intiatives. A few airline companies began working on the possibility of increasing direct flights from Brazil. Ambassadors of the Dutch Kingdom in the region were invited to come to Aruba and take part in the strategy. With Holland and the European Union the foundation of cooperation was laid for a link between Europe and America via Aruba.

Organizations such as ATIA gave attention to the potential of Aruba's strategic position, and began planning initiatives which resulted in bringing an important delegation from Brazil to Aruba. Said delegation was headed by Roberto Gianetti Da Fonseca, the executive director of the industrial federation of the state of Sao Paolo (FIESP), Brazil.

The Brazilean delegation met with the Prime Minister

Eman and later with Minister of Economic Affairs, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer, at the newly inaugurated Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation. They also met with TNO who will be operating this center.

Brazil is considered a thriving economy with a burning interest in exporting her services outside of her borders. During the encounter with the Brazilean delegation headed by Da Fonseca, the government of Aruba presented its vision of the third economic pillar, now in formation. Aruba's objective is to provide facilities to serve as a gateway to Latin America.

At the inauguration of the new Center for Innovation, the House of Europe, it became obvious the direction in which Aruba is geared....to become a facilitator in the connection between Europe and growing economies such as Brazil. Aruba is poised for becoming the bridge between Latin America and Europe.

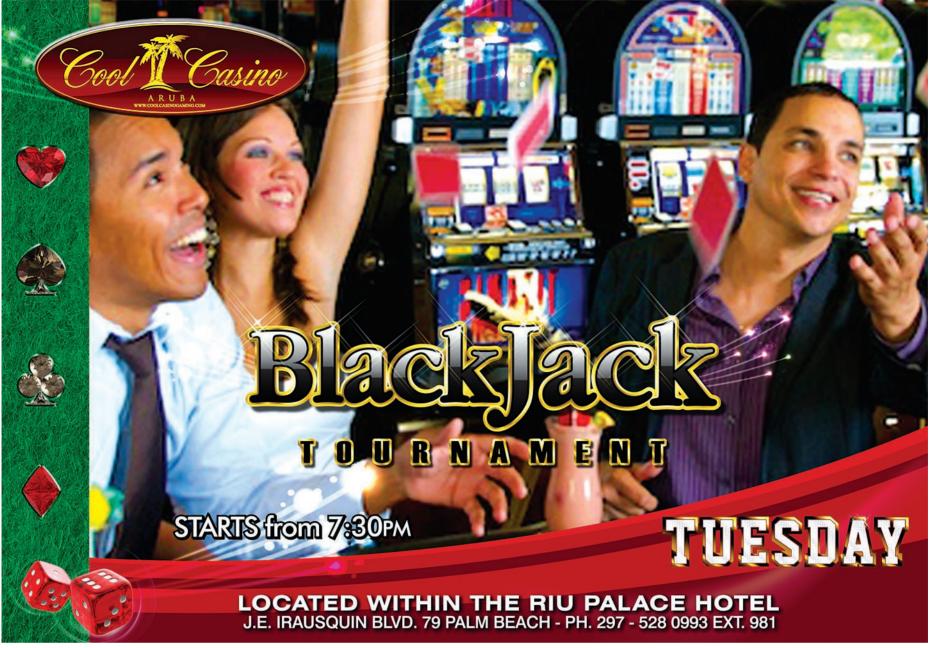
TNO is a Dutch, world renowned investigation institute. After opening an office in Qatar, Aruba is honored to have a TNO Bureau established here in our Center for Innovation. This agency will concentrate on investigation

with respect to solar systems and wind in the Caribbean. TNO is expected to offer education and training to Arubans, international students and professionals. TNO will also be equipped to offer certification for high quality Latin American products for exportation to Europe and the USA.

The government of Aruba is pleased with the initiative of ATIA, private sector organization, which has capitalized on the opportunity to help bridge the gap between South America and Europe, and specifically between Brazil and Europe. Together with the House of Europe and TNO Aruba can focus on the development of its third economic pillar, "knowledge and technology," according to Prime Minister Eman.

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Aruba welcomes Sunwing Airlines



A gift from ATA to Gary Ogden and Susan Oland given by Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes

Peter Steinmetz, CEO of the Aruba Airport Authority, (AAA) was joined by CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, (ATA) Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes and CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) in welcoming the inaugural flight of Sunwing Airlines, a part of the Sunwing and Signature.ca travel groups of Canada, this past Sunday, November 6.

Headquartered in Toronto,

Sunwing now flies every Sunday a Boeing 737 800 series jet from Toronto, with a capacity of 189 seats; a year-round scheduled flight. Program Development Manager for Sunwing, Susan Oland, on board the first flight, explained that in mid-December they will add a Thursday flight to Aruba, through May.

Also onboard the inaugural flight was Sunwing Vice President of Commercial Opera-





A toast to the new partnership.

tions, Gary Ogden, who expressed his great delight at returning to Aruba, the place where he first vacationed with the woman who is now is wife, along with Colleen Lessard, ATA Sales and Marketing Manager for Canada.

This first flight arrived with 180 passengers booking under Sunwing's Signature Vacations "luxury travel" banner. Passengers on Sunwing flights will enjoy "Champagne Service" – "Not only figuratively, but literally," commented Peter Steinmetz. "Sunwing offers the kind of service patrons have not experienced for some



Gary Ogden gives Peter Steinmetz a gift

time now; hot meals, drinks and comfort, we are very proud to have had them choose Aruba as a destination."

Continued on page 5



Santa Rosa boasts new Boat motor and new services to fishermen and others



ORANJESTAD -- Just recently the Santa Rosa boat reentered the ocean after getting outfitted with a brand new motor. This boat, in service since 1994, has been long awaiting a very necessary upgrade. Now, it is finally equipped with a "four stroke" motor which is very economical on gasolin and better suited for the environment.

Mr. Francisco Franken, person in charge of the Centro di Pesca Hadicurari, accompanied by several members of the fisheries section of Santa Rosa, were among those witnessing the emergence of the boat into the water and the subsequent test drive with its new motor.

The boat took off valiantly.

This definitely sparked new enthusiasm for all the workers who are preparing for other undertakings in several other areas.

Agreement of cooperation:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock (LVV-Santa Rosa) and the board of the Fundacion Centro di Pesca Hadicurari have recently signed a new agreement which is replete with many benefits for both organizations as well as for Aruban fishermen.

A part of the new agreement entails that the boat will be available for work being done by LVV, the Fundacion Centro di Pesca Hadicurari, as well as for other work and organizations working to protect marine life on Aruba. The agreement also stipulates that the boat will remain stationed at the Centro di Pesca at Noord.

Safety and security equipment:

Rosa Marina, as the boat has been named, will soon be equipped with every imaginable safety and security equipment as required by the Departments of Shipping, the Coast Guard and other authorities. Complete compliance to all rules and regulations will also serve as an example to our fishermen as well as guarantee the safety of all on board the boat. Once all the security features are in place, the boat will be completely functional and could be released to do its important work. As mentioned above, the boat will be stationed at Centro di Pesca Hadicurari which will help our fishermen in the event of rough seas. This way they would be able to reach them out at sea and return to anker outside of the pier.

These were all specific requests of our fishermen and which the Minister insisted must be arranged in the best posible manner on the behalf of our fishermen and all others concerned.

Think Pink for breast cancer awareness

Continued from page 1



Contributing their work, "with Hope and Love were: Cheqion

Arends, Corali Nava, Franchesca van den Linde, Marylou Hermans, Jenuar van den Biezen, Angelle Kock, Alexander Leslie, Vanessa Almarate and Genevieve Geerman. A special thanks to veteran artists: Janine Flanegien, Noortje van Pelt, Facundo Franken, Suzanne van Spall, Kevin Mc David and Edith de Vogel.

Aruba concludes Breast Cancer Awareness Month events with the grand finale, the 2nd Pink Runway, tomorrow night at the Westin Aruba Resort beginning at 8:00 PM. Entrance fee is \$20 or 35 Aruban florins; all the models are breast cancer survivors and all proceeds help the Mary Joan Foundation in their important work.

by Rosalie Klein





Aruba welcomes . . .

Continued from page 3



AHATA CEO Jim Hepple

Signature.ca offers full packages to Aruba with accommodations at Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Bucuti Beach Resort, Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, The Mill Resort & Suites, Brickell Bay Beach Club and Westin Aruba Resort.

Ms. Oland expressed their agents report great interest in Aruba, and they are optimistic this partnership will grow as did their service to Jamaica. "We went from one gateway to Jamaica to 18 cities across Canada flying there direct; we hope to see such growth with Aruba, eventually."

Sunwing executives received a formal welcome in the Reina Beatrix International Airport VIP Room, where they shared a ritual exchange of mementos with Aruban travel executives and a champagne toast heralding this exciting new travel opportunity for Canadians.

by Rosalie Klein

Focus on Security and Safety a whopping Success by Hospital Calamity Team

ORANJESTAD -- As we can recall, it was the Calamity Team of the Hospital whose idea it was to organize a Safety and Security Conference as part of the celebration of their with lustrum. They can now look back at a tremendously successful 1st Aruba Safety and Security Conference. A total of 179 participants attended the conference which focused on the security within organizations. There were as many as 22 speakers, three of whom came from abroad. The primary goal of the conference was to make everyone more aware of the importance of safety and security. And, that safety and security is much more than what is usually thought of and how it touches many more instances than we are cognizant of.

President of the Board of Aruba's Hospital, Dr. Arnoud Boesten, opened the first session with words of welcome,



which was followed by the Minister of Justice, Arthur Dowers offering words of praise for the organization. This was followed by varous sessions regarding security in the health field, education, the private sector and in our foundations. During the course of the conference, various stands lined the halls presenting information and flyers about their products.

It was also possible to get free blood samples taken by Laboratorio Familiar. One other interesting feature was the workshop offered by Ralph Kronieger from Holland and Fred LeBlanc of the US. Fred LeBlanc created much enthusiasm among the participants with his inimitable style.

After two intensive days of delibarations and meetings, the conference was closed with an

It was also possible to get blood samples taken by boratorio Familiar. One "After Conference Networking Event" accompanied by Wine and Cheese.

A survey taken after the conference revealed that 72% of the participants gave high scores for the organization and planning of the conference... the average score was 8.2 out of a maximum of 10. This, according to the organizers is an ecouragement for a repeat conference perhaps next year.

The organizers have also opened an email address where participants can keep in touch with each other.

All participants are requested to register and send an email to ERTAruba@gmail. com. Please go to the Hospital's website www.arubahospital. com to view the pictures taken during the conference and view aspects of the conference.

The organizing committee of the Hospital expresses their sincere gratitude to all those who participated and contributed, and their sponsors who donated substantially to making their first conference such a success.

The Morning News also applauds the tremendous initiative taken by the Hospital Calamity Team. Your initiative sparked a new interest in an important area of needed development on Aruba. Great job!

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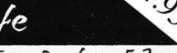
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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

New census method puts US poor at 49.1 million

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The number of Americans living in poverty grew yesterday to 49.1 million, or 16 percent of the total population, under a new US Census Bureau methodology that gave more weight to day-to-day expenses.

Officially, some 46.6 million people in the United States, or 15.2 percent, live under the poverty line, but that figure is rooted in statistical methods dating back to the 1950s and based on pre-tax income.

The revised "supplemental poverty measure" for 2010 -- unveiled yesterday by the Census Bureau -- gives more weight to expenses such as taxes, work-related expenses, child care, child support and out-of-pocket medical expenses.

It also brings housing subsidies, food stamps, school lunches and programs to help pay energy bills into the mix.

Using the new formula brought down the rate of poverty among blacks, renters, those living outside big cities, those living in the Midwest and South, and those covered only by public health insurance.

On the other hand, the pro-

portion of over-65s in poverty grew to 12.7 percent under the supplemental poverty measure, compared with 7.6 percent according to the official methodology

The total number of those of Asian origin living in poverty rose to 2.4 million, compared to 1.7 million under the official measure.

Despite its weaknesses, Kathleen Short of the Census Bureau's household statistics division said yesterday the long-standing methodology would remain the official yardstick of poverty in America.

In a separate study last week, the Brookings Institution said the number of Americans living in extreme poverty grew by more than one-third over the past decade, a period that included the worst recession since the 1930s.

Over the 10 years, the number of US residents living below the federal poverty line -- defined in 2010 as having an income of \$22,314 for a family of four -- grew by 12.3 million, the think tank said.

The number of Americans living in poverty has reached "a historic high of 46.2 million," or more than 15 percent of the US population, it added.



Washington: Yesterday, US President Barack Obama (C) delivered remarks at the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC on tax credits included in the American Jobs Act and new executive actions that will help get veterans back to work. Official Labor Department figures on Friday found that 80,000 jobs were created last month -- slightly less than economists expected -- and unemployment edged down slightly to 9.0 percent. (AFP Photo)

Pentagon looks for weapons to wage cyber warfare

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Pentagon's researchers plan to bolster their efforts to create offensive weapons for use in cyber warfare, reflecting a growing concern over digital threats, US officials said yesterday.

The US government needed "more and better options" to safeguard the country from assaults on sensitive computer networks and had to invest in both offensive and defensive tools, said Regina Dugan, director of the Pentagon's research arm, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

"Malicious cyber attacks are not merely an existential threat to our bits and bytes. They are a real threat to our physical systems, including our military systems," Dugan told a conference.

"To this end, in the coming years we will focus an increasing portion of our cyber research on the investigation of offensive capabilities to address military-specific needs," she said.

DARPA has proposed boosting funding in cyber research in the proposed 2012

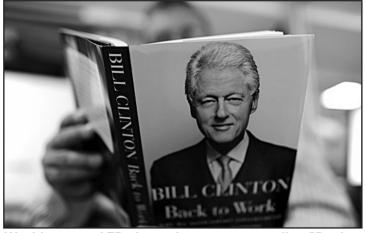
budget from \$120 million to \$208 million and the Defense Department leadership has called for \$500 million in funding for cyber security over the next five years, she said.

With other countries pursuing cyber warfare capabilities and the danger from digital attacks growing by the day, the United States had to look at developing "offensive" arms to protect national security, said Dugan, without specifying what weapons could be employed.

"Our first goal must be to prevent war. We do so in part by being prepared for it. Failing prevention, however, we must accept our responsibility to be prepared to respond," she said. Even while preparing for possible digital war, US policy makers must protect civil liberties and the "peaceful shared use of cyberspace," she added.

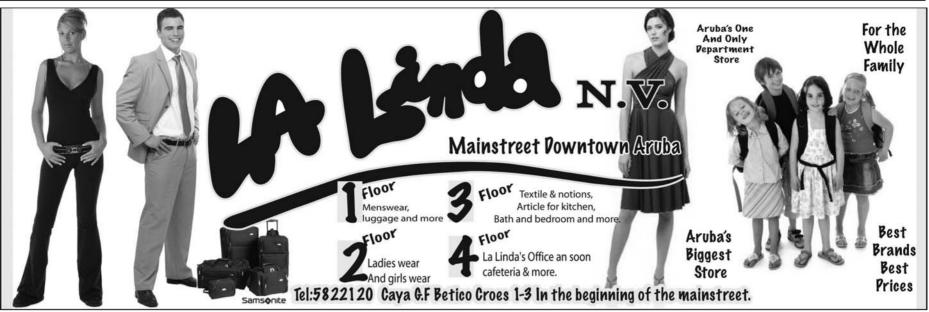
A recent DARPA analysis of cyber security over several months concluded that the US government had to rethink how it defends cyberspace to keep up with a threat evolving at lightning speed.

The DARPA study found that security software had grown more and more complex over the past two decades -- involving up to ten million lines of code -- while various viruses and other digital assaults required an average of 125 lines of code for malware, according to Dugan.



Washington: AFP photo shows a man reading "Back to Work" written by former US president Bill Clinton and published by Random House in Washington, DC. "The Democrats did not counter the national Republican message with one of their own," Clinton writes in the book, which is to be released on November 8, 2011.





US commandos bolster anti-drug fight in Americas

NEW YORK (AFP) - The US Drug Enforcement Agency has five commando-style squads it has been quietly deploying for the past several years to various countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, the New York Times reported yesterday.

The countries where the commando teams have been deployed include Haiti, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Belize, all countries struggling to com-

bat drug trafficking, the daily

wrote.

The DEA confirmed the existence of the Foreign-deployed Advisory Support Teams (FAST) and said they "provide key support and mentoring to host nation law enforcement agencies."



"All United States law enforcement activities are conducted in close coordination with host governments and the United States embassy. Moreover, they comply with US and host country laws," the agency said in a statement.

The program dates back to the George W. Bush administration, and was created originally to investigate Talibanlinked drug traffickers in Afghanistan.

But US President Barack Obama beginning in 2008 broadened its mandate beyond the Afghan war zone, according to the Times.

The newspaper reported that the program reflects Washington's growing reach in combating drug cartels, amid concerns by some policy makers that the line be-

tween law enforcement and military activities is becoming increasingly blurred.

But Michael Braun, a former head of operations for the drug agency who helped design the program, told the Times that the military-trained commandos are exactly what is needed for often dangerous drug interdiction activities.

Colombia mudslide toll climbs to 35

MANIZALES (AFP) - The death toll from a massive mudslide has risen to 35, officials said yesterday, as rescuers struggled to find more survivors in this mountainous, coffee-growing region beset by days of heavy rain.

The mudslide in Manizales, a city of 350,000 some 287 kilometers (178 miles) west of Bogota, swept through the Cervantes neighborhood early Saturday, demolishing as many as 14 houses.

The Red Cross director in Manizales, Juan Manuel Osorio, said the death toll had risen from 29 to 35, and could climb even higher.

"We don't dare venture a figure on the number of missing, but I would think that because of when the event occurred, 6:00 am Saturday, that there were a good number of residents," he said.

"Some people have come forward -- relatives of those

who may be there -- and we are working on that information," he said.

Scores of Colombians waited for news of loved ones buried since Saturday's disaster. So far 16 people have been rescued but the likelihood of finding more survivors appeared to diminish by the hour.

And some of the survivors, many of whom suffered physical injuries, now also were confronting the mental and emotional anguish of learning that their loved ones had perished.

Meanwhile, seven people, mostly children, were killed in the city of Cali Sunday when a rain-swollen river burst its banks. A spokeswoman for Colombia's Risk Management Office, Sandra Calvo, said 35 families numbering some 159 people were believed to be living in the houses that were destroyed or damaged by the mudslide.

Carlos the Jackal on trial for deadly French bombings

PARIS (AFP) - With a clenched fist salute and a relaxed smile, Venezuelan militant cell leader Carlos the Jackal went on trial yesterday in Paris accused of killing 11 people in four bombings in 1980s France.

The 62-year-old has made no secret of his past as the leader of a gang that carried out attacks on behalf of Warsaw Pact intelligence agencies and far-left or pro-Palestinian causes, but denies the latest French charges.

Carlos Ilich Ramirez Sanchez waved and gave the left-wing rebels' traditional salute to a motley collection of supporters struggling to find space alongside dozens of journalists.

Speaking before the hearing, French stand-up comic Dieudonne Mbala Mbala, an activist close to far-right circles who has been convicted of

anti-Semitism, demanded that "Commander Carlos" be allowed to return home to Venezuela.

Carlos' lawyers kept up the atmosphere of spectacle, denouncing the "unfair trial" before a panel of anti-terrorism magistrates, without a jury.

Carlos was arrested in Sudan in 1994 and transferred to France, where he has since been held in various jails. In 1997 he was convicted of the 1975 murder of a civilian and two policemen, and jailed for life.

Six weeks of hearings are scheduled, during which Carlos will return nightly under tight guard to his cell in the French capital's high-security La Sante prison. The trial is due to end on December 16.

Around 20 witnesses are expected to be called, including family members, experts and former accomplices.

Floods show what lies ahead for sinking Bangkok



Bangkok -- AFP photo shows local residents using a boat to cross flood waters in Lat Phrao shopping and business district in Bangkok. The Thai capital, built on swampland, is slowly sinking and the floods currently besieging Bangkok could be merely a foretaste of a grim future as climate change

makes its impact felt, experts say.

The low-lying metropolis lies just 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of the Gulf of Thailand, where various experts forecast sea level will rise by 19 to 29 centimeters (7 to 11 inches) by 2050 as a result of global warming.

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Health & Living

'TB sniffer' offers hope of early diagnosis

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian researchers said they were close to developing an "electronic nose" to sniff out tuberculosis on the breath -- offering rapid diagnosis that could save hundreds of thousands of lives.

The "E-Nose" is a batteryoperated, hand-held unit, similar to a police breathalyser used to catch drunk drivers.

A patient blows into the device and sensors pick up TB biomarkers in the breath droplets, resulting in an almost instantaneous and highly accurate diagnosis.

TB kills close to 1.7 million people globally every year, and researchers estimate the "E-Nose" could save 400,000 lives a year in developing

countries through early diagnosis, treatment and reduced transmission.

TB is currently detected through sputum tests that are costly and take several days.

On Monday, the project was awarded a \$950,000 grant by the Bill and Melinda gates Foundation and Grand Challenges Canada, a non-profit organisation working on health issues in the developing world.

"Our research shows it might also be possible to use this technology for the early detection of other diseases like lung cancer and pneumonia," Nanda told AFP.

Each "E-Nose" would cost roughly \$20-30 and its size and battery operation would make it accessible to rural communi-

ties in countries such as India with poor or non-existent power supplies.

According to the World Health organisation, India leads the world in TB infections which kill close to 1,000 people every day.

"Our goal is to make the Electronic Nose widely available in poor, remote areas where tuberculosis often breeds and spreads, devastating so many lives," Nanda said.

Tuberculosis is a contagious bacterial infection that spreads through the air. If left untreated, each person with active TB will on average infect between 10 and 15 people every year, according to the WHO

Venezuela's Hugo Chavez calls for 'cancer summit'

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan president and cancer survivor Hugo Chavez announced a summit in early 2012 of Latin American leaders who have beaten the disease including Brazil's current and former presidents.

The 57 year-old Chavez had surgery in June to remove a malignant tumor. After several rounds of chemotherapy, mostly in Cuba, he claimed last month that he was cancerfree.

Brazil's popular former

president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, 66, was diagnosed with throat cancer in late October and began chemotherapy treatments.

Lula's successor, President Dilma Rousseff, 63, was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer in 2009 before she was elected to Brazil's top office. Doctors say she is currently cancer-free.

Also invited is Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo, 60, who was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer in August 2010. After treatment mostly in Brazil, doctors in December declared him cancer-free.

Chavez underwent four chemotherapy sessions, three of them in Havana.

"This summit will be in early 2012, after Lula finishes his chemotherapy," Chavez told state media.

"We are going to hold a summit with Dilma, Lugo, Lula and this humble servant. There will be no cancer or force that can hold us back, because Latin America is experiencing a rebirth," Chavez said.

Half of US students face sex harassment: survey

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Forty-eight percent of US middle and high school students suffered sexual harassment in the past school year, both in person and online, a national survey released Monday said.

And 87 percent of those students said the experience had a negative impact on them, according to the survey of 1,965 students in grades seven through 12 conducted by the



Association of American University Women (AAUW).

"Sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle and high schools," said the 76-page report, which follows the Washington-based charity's previous investigation of bullying in schools.

Some students stayed home from school. Others skipped classes, dropped after-school activities, took different routes to and from school, or changed schools altogether.

Yet only nine percent ever reported incidents to their teachers or guidance counselors, said the report, which called upon educators to be more proactive in addressing the issue.

Girls were more likely to be sexually harassed than boys by a wide margin of 56 percent versus 40 percent, both in person and through emails, social media or text messaging.

Thirty-three percent of all

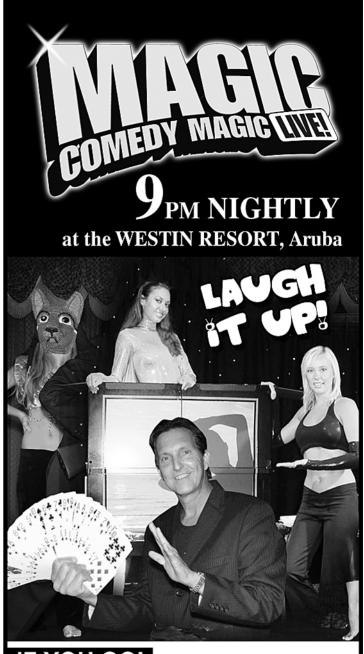
respondents said they had been the targets of sexual comments, jokes or gestures, and 13 percent of girls -- and three percent of boys -- reported being touched in an unwelcome sexual way.

Equal numbers of boys and girls (18 percent) reported being called gay or lesbian in a negative way -- and being called a lesbian was particularly common for girl athletes.

The survey also looked into the motivations of students who sexually harass other students.

Forty-four percent said that such conduct was just a fact of school life; 39 percent said "I thought it was funny" and 34 percent said "I was being stupid." Twenty-three percent were motivated by revenge.

Middle school in the United States is generally understood to be grades six through eight, or ages 11 to 13, and high school as nine through 12, or ages 14 to 18.



IF YOU GO!

SHOWTIME: 9PM NIGHTLY

STARRING: Adam Steinfeld
WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.
LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090

WestinAruba.com/magic

MagicLive.com

MagicOnTheBeach.com

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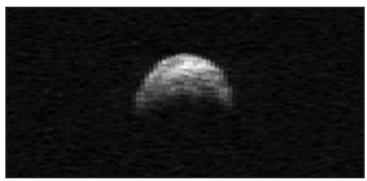
RESORT & CASINO





Sci-Tech

Rare near-Earth asteroid fly-by set for Today



This image made from radar data taken in April 2010 by the Arecibo Radar Telescope in Puerto Rico and provided by NASA/Cornell/Arecibo shows asteroid 2005 YU55.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A massive asteroid will make a rare fly-by Today, and although it poses no danger of crashing to Earth, US scientists said they are eager for a closer look.

"This is not a potentially hazardous asteroid, just a good

REMEMBER to

Buckle

up

opportunity to study one," said National Science Foundation astronomer Thomas Statler.

The circular asteroid, named 2005 YU55, is about 1,300 feet (400 meters) wide and will come closer than the Moon, zipping by at a distance of 202,000 miles (325,000 kilometers), the US space agency said.

The time of the nearest flyby is expected to be at 2328 GMT (6:28 Eastern time in the US).

The encounter will be the closest by an asteroid of that size in more than 30 years, and a similar event will not happen again until 2028.

However, those who want to see will need a telescope.

The asteroid is "going to be pretty faint when it flies by," said Scott Fisher, program director of the National Science Foundation's Division of Astronomical Sciences.

"It will not be visible to the naked eye. You will need a telescope that has a mirror at least six inches in size to see it. To make it even more difficult to observe, it will be moving very quickly across the sky as it

passes."

"The best time (and place) to observe it would be in the early evening on November 8th from the east coast of the US."

Astronomers who have studied the object, part of the C-class of asteroids, say it is very dark, like the color of charcoal, and quite porous. It was first discovered in 2005 by Robert McMillan of the Spacewatch Project, a solar-systemscanning group of scientists near Tucson, Arizona.

While 2005 YU55 will stay a safe distance away, it is part of a crew of 1,262 big asteroids circling the Sun and measuring more than 500 feet (150 meters) across that NASA classifies as "potentially hazardous."

"We want to study these asteroids so if one does look like it may hit us someday, we'll know what to do about it," Statler said.

The asteroid's closest pass is set to take place in 2094, at a distance of 167,000 miles (269,000 kilometers), according to forecasts.

"The observations will give us a piece of the puzzle, one we don't get many chances to see," said Don Yeomans of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"At one time, we thought these were the asteroids that delivered carbon and other elements to the early Earth, so they are pretty important."

NASA said the last time a space rock this big approached Earth was in 1976, "although astronomers did not know about the fly-by at the time."

Quandary of the kilo triggers a weighty reflexion



Weights and measures used in ancient times

PARIS (AFP) - The guardians of the world's most important standards of weights and measures have turned to the weird universe of quantum physics to try to resolve a dilemma.

To the bafflement of scientists, a cylinder of metal sitting in a closely-guarded strongbox that is the global benchmark for the kilogram is changing mass.

The enigma doesn't affect anyone who wants to buy 500-milligramme tablets of aspirin, half a kilo of carrots or a 50,000-tonne cruise ship.

But it poses a hefty theoretical challenge to physicists, and complicates the work of labs which need ultra-precise, always-standard measurement.

Since 1889, the kilogram has been internationally defined in accordance with a piece of metal kept at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (known by its French acronym of BIPM), in the Paris suburb of Sevres.

Ninety-percent platinum and 10-percent iridium, the British-made cylinder was proudly deemed at its founding to be as inalienable as the stars in the sky.

It is kept under three glass cases in a safe in a protected building, the Pavillon de Bretavil

In 1992 came a shock: the famous kilo was no longer what it should be.

Measurements made over a century showed that the prototype had changed by around 50 microgrammes -- the equivalent of a tiny grain of sand 0.4 millimetres (0.015 inches) in diameter -- compared to six other kilos also stored in Sevres.

"Actually, we're not sure whether it lost mass or gained it," Alain Picard, director of the BIPM's Mass Department, told AFP. "The change may be to due to surface effects, loss of gas from the metal or a buildup of contaminant."

The skinnier (or fatter) kilo became more than a scientific curiosity.

-- Kilo will still be a kilo -- It is a bedrock of the International System of Units (SI), the world's most widely-used system of measurement units for daily life, precision engineering, science and trade.

The SI has seven "base units" -- the kilo, metre, second, ampere, kelvin, mole and candela -- from which all other units are derived.

But unlike its counterparts, the kilo is the last unit that is still defined by a material object.

There used to be a platinum ruler that was the world's standard metre until its role was replaced by a fundamental constant, the time that light takes to travel 100 centimetres. The metal metre still resides in Sevres, but as a museum piece.

Moving at a pace best described as ponderous, the masters of the SI have now decided to phase out the kilo cylinder.

If all goes well, it will be replaced by a fixed value based on the Planck Constant, named after Max Planck, the granddaddy of quantum physics, who discovered it in 1899.

The Planck Constant, which uses the letter "h" in equations, corresponds to the smallest packet of energy, or quanta, that two particles can exchange.

On October 21, the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) agreed to use the constant to calculate the value of the kilo.

But adopting this "will not be before 2014," after experiments to assess the accuracy of measurement techniques to ensure accuracy to within 20 parts per billion.

If the Planck Constant is adopted, nothing in everyday life will change. The kilo will still be a kilo.

"However, the changes will have immediate impact in the excruciatingly accurate measurements carried out by highly specialised laboratories," the conference said in a press release.

PICKLES







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ACROSS 1. Jeweler's

- measure 6. Mother of FDR
- 10. Composer Nacio ____ Brown
- 14. Jazz vibraphonist Roy 15. Word after
- who, what, when, or
- where 16. Location 17. Kind of dressing
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- loincloth 21. Time for a vigil church
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FINANCE PORTFOLIO

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- shape Tijuana
- tortilla treats Prop for Cinderella or
- Dorothy In abundance
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- (Shaw) R concern
- 54. Focused 58. Exclamations of wonder
- 60. Peruvian
- Indian
- 62. Right-hand man 63. "I ___ You"
- (America hit) Transgresses 66. "Hard (Art Blakey album)

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Finance

Aruba leads the Caribbean with spending \$70 million in new developments and destination updates

NEW YORK - The tourism sector of Aruba has long been committed to continuously upgrading and improving the quality of its product. Throughout 2011, various impressive projects were completed, including the \$26 million refurbishment of Radisson Aruba Resort. Casino & Spa and new ventures were started such as the \$5 million upgrade to Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort and Casino amenities including the casino, spa and

guest services. From hotel renovations and increased air service to new restaurants, events and attractions, Aruba guarantees visitors an ideal vacation experience.

Highlights of the One happy island's new tourism offerings include:

Air service:

- Beginning December 17, AirTran is offering the first nonstop flights to Aruba out of Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) every Saturday and Sunday at 1:59pm. Additionally, vacationers will have more travel options as AirTran's current Saturday and Sunday flights from Atlanta are augmented to daily nonstop service.
- JetBlue Airways has announced that travelers can take advantage of additional flights out of New York's JFK Airport between November 25 and 28, 2011, December 16 and January 2, 2012, and February 17 and April 9, 2012 when the airline increases their twice a day daily service to three times a day on Mondays and Fridays. The airline is also adding a third Saturday flight out Boston beginning January 7, 2012.
- Aruba Airport Authority N.V. is beginning a South Side Development plan to Aruba's Reina Beatrix Airport, which will entail the building of 2 new hangars to accommodate B 737 jets of Tiara Air, which will start daily commercial service to the U.S.

Hotels, Resorts and Timeshares:

• The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa's \$26 million refurbishment project was completed in October 2011. The refurbishment includes the 355-room resort's three guestroom towers and key public



areas. In addition to new furnishings and décor, the renovation will add new gaming equipment to the resort's casino by early December.

- La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club's ambitious threeyear project to renovate the guest units from floor to ceiling was completed in September of 2011. In June a soft opening took place revealing a new porte cochere, efficient check-in pods, a new elevator, and a one-of-a-kind water and fire sculpture feature.
- The Marriott Aruba Resort and Stellaris Casino is adding a new adult pool through a \$1.5 million investment
- The Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort and Casino is spending \$5 million to upgrade different areas of the hotel. The upgrades are an extension of the multi-million dollar renovations completed in 2008, providing a fresh new look as the resort provides full service and amenities to current guests.
- The Divi Village and Golf Resort is completing the renovation of its 132 suites and the Divi Group will spend \$6 million on renovating the Alhambra Casino as well as adding a shopping mall with a variety of new stores and restaurants
- The Mill Resort & Suites will invest \$1.5 million in the first phase of a complete renovation of its rooms and lobby area
- The Westin Resort & Casino recently completed a \$1.5 million total renovation of its casino and will invest a further \$2 million on improvements to the hotel.

Events:

• The Carubbian Festival inaugurated in June 2011 takes place in San Nicolas every Thursday night from $6~\mathrm{pm}-10~\mathrm{pm}$, showcasing multicultural

charms of Aruba's "Sunrise City". Tourists can purchase a package at their hotel including round-trip transportation. The center of activities is a stage area where the audience can relax at tables to enjoy a diversity of cuisines from the region and a parade of local entertainers. The main street is closed to traffic becoming a pedestrian mall filled with colorful booths selling local food, handicrafts and logo souvenirs, with fun activities for the entire family.

Attractions:

The first phase of construction of the Aruba Linear Park, which is poised to become the largest in the Caribbean with a total length of ten miles extending from the Reina Beatrix Airport to Arashi Beach, was completed in October 2011. The park includes a cycling path, walking path, sheltered areas, parking spaces, public bathrooms, kiosks and sufficient space for organizing different activities, all with breathtaking views of the ocean. The building of the park will be done in phases, with construction beginning on the second phase this year.

Cruising:

- The Aruba Ports Authority began the process of investing an estimated \$35 million to move the current container port in Oranjestad to their new Multi-Cargo Sea Terminal at Barcadera. The relocation of the container port opens up new possibilities and opportunities to further develop the island's cruise industry. The project is estimated to be fully operational in about one and a half years from start of contract.
- Carnivals Cruise Lines' Carnival Breeze, which is set to be launched in June 2012 has added Aruba to its 8-day Southern Caribbean cruise from its homeport in Miami, Florida. The ship's itinerary will include Grand Turk, La Romana, Curaçao and Aruba. The 1,004 foot-long vessel has a capacity of 3,690 guests and 1,386 staff members and will feature all the best of its sister ships, Carnival Dream and Carnival Magic

For more information on Aruba, please visit online at www.ARUBA.com or call 1-800-TO-ARUBA.



Cali: AFP photo shows a student holding a poster that reads in Spanish, "Univalle says no to privatization, so-. cial sciences" during a recent protest against an education reform bill in Cali, department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia. Thousands of students in costume and carrying torches, took to the streets to protest against the bill to reform higher education put forward by the government President Juan Manuel Santos.



Monetary policy - October 2011

ORANJESTAD -- During the meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of October 26, 2011, the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided, based upon the available economic and monetary data, to maintain the reserve requirement rate at 11 percent, and to leave the advance rate percentage of 1 percent unchanged. The considerations for this policy stance are that, although Aruba's net foreign assets decreased somewhat (September 2011: -0.6 percent compared to December 2010), the current position is still considered adequate, while the fall in net foreign assets occurred mainly by other factors than credit growth. The aggregate outstanding credit at the commercial banks expanded by 1.6 percent in comparison to December 2010, predominantly related to increases in housing mortgages and business loans of, respectively, 3.8 percent and 1.5 percent. The aggregate outstanding credit growth is

lower than the CBA's forecast of 2.0 percent for 2011 as a whole. In addition, the developments in both inflation and liquidity in the banking sector remained within a range that the CBA considers acceptable.

(AFP PHOTO)

The CBA will continue to closely follow the developments in the economic and monetary fundamentals. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for November 25, 2011.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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Bieber says DNA test will prove baby is not his: report



LOS ANGELES (AFP) Justin Bieber will take a DNA test to prove that he did not father a 20-year old fan's baby -- and then will turn the tables on her paternity suit by taking her to court once the results come in, US media reported.

US gossip website TMZ

said that the teen singing sensation is presently on tour in Europe, but plans to take the DNA test when he returns to the United States to prove that he did not father the infant son born to Mariah Yeater, 20.

Yeater made the claim in a paternity suit filed in Los Angeles last week, news reports said.

Sources say Bieber, 17, and his team think it's important to file a lawsuit against Yeater as a deterrent to others who might be tempted to make similar charges in the future.

His legal team, which has called Yeater's paternity claims "malicious, defamatory and demonstrably false," has vowed to "vigorously pursue all available legal remedies to defend and protect Justin against these allegations."

Yeater, who gave birth to a baby boy in July, has said that she and Bieber met backstage at a concert in Los Angeles in October of last year, where he propositioned her.

"When I later realized I was pregnant with Justin Bieber's baby, I tried to contact him through his representatives but no one ever called me back," she told the court, according to another gossip sheet, The Star.

The Canadian-born pop singer told his fans in a tweet last week that he intended to block out the allegations that, although still a kid himself, he had fathered a love-child.

"Im going to ignore the rumors ... and focus on what is real. an opportunity to help by doing what i love. Judge me on the music! Love yall!" he wrote.

Bieber currently is in Europe promoting a new Christmas-themed album "Under the Mistletoe."

On Sunday, he received one of the inaugural MTV Voices awards at the MTV Europe Video Awards in Belfast, in recognition of his work raising millions of dollars for various charities.

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Da Vinci and Michelangelo go face to face in Rome



The Creation of Adam fresco painted by Michelangelo, 1508 - 1512, it appears on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.



Raphael, The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, c. 1513-14, Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

ROME (AFP) - Italian Renais- in November. sance masters Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo come face to face for the first time with a new exhibition at Rome's Capitoline Museums focusing on both their drawings and Roman works.

The display, running until February 12, takes a leading place in a packed month of cultural activity across Europe

Among other highlights, the US dancer David Hallberg makes his stage debut at Russia's Bolshoi and African photography stars at the Paris Photo Fair

More masterpieces by Michelangelo along with works by Raphael feature in an exhibition at the Fondazione Roma museum, exploring the



Virgin of the Rocks -1486 by Leonardo da Vinci

16th century's artistic course from High Renaissance to religious spirituality.

Leonardo da Vinci also has a second exhibition, in London, where a show at the National Gallery career focusses on his time as a court painter in Milan, working for the city's ruler Ludovico Maria Sforza, known as il Moro (the Moor) in the 1480s and 1490s.

The National Gallery says the event will feature the largest ever number of the artist's surviving paintings, including the gallery's own recently restored "Virgin of the

11/11/11: Are you one with this week's fateful date?

WASHINGTON (AFP) - This coming Friday at 49 minutes before noon, people around the globe will experience a numerically auspicious hour and date unlike any other in modern times: 11:11, on 11/11/11.

While millions may marvel at the once-per-century string of ones on their clocks, mobile devices and calendars, to be sure much of humanity will hardly bat an eye.

But many numerologists, metaphysicists, psychics and their followers, occultists and conspiracy theorists will be watching for signs of some broad humanistic awakening, a harmonic convergence, even a portal opening into a new dimension, as some experts predict a major "shift in consciousness."

Thousands will gather for 11/11/11 ceremonies, trance dances or day-in-the-life video projects around the world, and several Facebook pages marking the date have popped up.

A Spanish charity for the blind named ONCE (Eleven) is holding a special lottery with 11 one-million-euro prizes and a super jackpot worth 11 million euros.

From Israeli-born psychic Uri Geller to "visionary" author and 11-11 expert Solara -- and even fans of the movie "This Is Spinal Tap," for

whom the number 11 holds cherished meaning -- many are hailing the synchronicity of the date.

Solara lives in Peru, and while she is keeping her 11/11 plans secret, she says groups in more than 50 countries will mark the auspicious moment.

At 1111 GMT they will "join together and sit as silent watchers who oversee worlds within worlds," and whose perspective will "strengthen the resonance of trueness just by their presence," she said.

Fornumerologists, Freemasons and occult groups, 11 holds special resonance.

Some say it has psychic properties or represents a channel to the subconscious, while others stress its inborn duality, a reflection of the good-and-evil paradigm that Solara believes has been present since the dawn of human-

Others cite the prophecy of Saint Malachy, who in the 11th century predicted there would be 112 popes before a biblical apocalypse. The current pontiff, Benedict XVI, is the 111th pope.

Historically the date carries weight. The World War I armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!



Whether you're a first time visitor to the island, or you vacation with us every year we invite you to enjoy one of the most memorable vacation destinations of your life. We know, we're Divi Resorts and Aruba has been our home for over 40 years.

Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations; and over 40,000 members actively participate in the Divi Vacation Ownership Program.

Many of our guests have found that one vacation to Aruba per year is simply not enough! Our solution: The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

The Residences are luxury full ownership condominiums nestled within the lush greens of The Links at Divi Aruba golf course.

Make Aruba your second home! Condominiums from the \$300s.

You can now purchase your own condominium and still enjoy the resort amenities of the Divi collection.

For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium, contact sales director John Kelly at (297) 583-9971 or email:sales@diviarubaresidences.com

We hope you will soon call Aruba home!

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Aaron and Manager Marc Anthony

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a

unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet



cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batterdipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50 Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

Dutch coach van Marwijk 'to sign new deal'



Holland coach Bert van Marwijk

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Holland coach Bert van Marwijk is reported to be set to sign a new contract tying him to the Oranje for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and Euro 2016 in France.

Van Marwijk's existing deal runs out after Euro 2012.

According to the paper the new deal contains no get out clause should a club come along and make an offer for the man who guided Holland to last year's World Cup final in South Africa.

News of a fresh deal comes in the wake of attempts by Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven to sign the 59-year-old who succeeded Marco van Basten in August 2008 after next year's European championships.

Under van Marwijk the Netherlands coasted through qualifying for Euro 2012, winning all their ten matches to top Group E.

Marwijk on Monday called up Ajax striker Derk Boerrigter for the first time and also included Ryan Babel for the first time in over a year for friendlies against Switzerland and Germany next week.

"I'm really happy that the coach has confidence in me again," said 24-year-old Babel, who moved from Liverpool to Hoffenheim during the summer break.

"I know I have to play better."

Boerrigter, 25, expressed his "great pride" after moving up from a second division Dutch side last year to join RKC Waalwijk and now Ajax.

Arjen Robben and Eljero Elia have not been included in the squad for the games on Friday and Tuesday next week because of injury.



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Time running out for two climbers stranded on Mont Blanc



A civil rescue helicopter flies away for the last flight rotation to locate two climbers who have been trapped for five nights at Pointe Walker (4.208 meters high) on the Italian side of the Grandes Jorasses mountain.

COURMAYEUR (AFP) -Hope was dwindling Monday for two French climbers stranded in the Mont Blanc massif for over five days in temperatures plunging as low

as minus 25 degrees centigrade.

Helicopter searches have so far failed to locate Charlotte Demetz, 44, and her guide Olivier Sourzac, 47, who became stuck on Wednesday some 150 metres from the Walker's Point peak (4208 metres) on the southfacing Italian side of the Grandes Jorasses mountain.

Efforts to find them have been hampered by persistent fog.

fog.

"Hope is running thin. We still have some hope because they are experienced climbers and well-equipped but the weather is not helping them," Jean-Baptiste Estachy, head of Chamonix mountain search and rescue, told a press conference in Courmayeur, Italy.

Before telephone contact was lost on Friday, Sourzac had told rescuers that the pair had dug a hole to take refuge in

Helicopters will resume the search today but weather conditions are not forecast to improve until Wednesday morning, according to local officials.

Football: Belgian teenage prodigy to sign for Manchester United

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Highlyrated Belgian teenage playmaker Andreas Hoelgebaum Pereira will sign his first professional contract with English Premier League champions Manchester United in January according to Dutch media reports on Monday.

The 15-year-old - who is of Brazilian origin - has come through the youth system of Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven and had been tracked by several major European clubs including AC Milan and United's

Premier League rivals Chelsea, Arsenal and Spurs.

Pereira, who PSV plucked from Belgian side Lommel a few years ago, said he owed a lot to PSV for putting him through their youth system but he didn't have second thoughts once United came calling.

"I know that PSV gave me my opportunity but Manchester United is a huge club," he said.

"Other British clubs were interested in me but Manchester is the club which I have al-

ways dreamed of.

"I went there several times to see the set-up and to speak to Sir Alex Ferguson.

"It is awe-inspiring to be 15 years old and to be speaking to him."

Pereira - son of a Brazilian former footballer Marcos Pereira who played for Belgian sides Mechelen, St-Truiden and Antwerp - will sign on January 1, the date of his 16th birthday, and be part of the United Under-19 squad.

Federer returns to winning mode with fifth Basel title

BASEL (AFP) - Roger Federer returned to winning mode ten months after his last title as the home tennis hero schooled Japanese wild card Kei Nishikori 6-1, 6-3 to win a fifth Swiss Indoors title on Sunday.

The third seed lost just one point on serve in a dominating first set which lasted 28

minutes. The 21-year-old Nishikori found some range in the second set but had no hopes against an on-form Federer at the event where he once served as a ballboy.

"It was a perfect match for me. Now I have big hopes for Paris and London," said Federer, whose eyes moistened as he held the trophy to a



standing ovation from "his" crowd after ending his longest title drought since 2002.

The 30-year-old Federer now stands 29-1 at the event over the past six years after playing six straight finals. The tournament is the only non-grand slam tournament where he has won more than 40 matches.

this season as he competed in his first final since losing to Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros in June. The seed, who hit with

Federer improved to 54-12

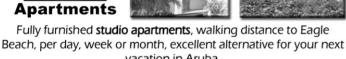
The seed, who hit with Nishikori several seasons ago in Miami and had the Asian youngster marked for a promising future, was playing in his 98th ATP final, standing 68-30 and 2-2 in 2011

"I tried to fight, but Roger would not let me into the match," said Nishikori. "I'm very glad to have played the final. It's always been one of my goals to play Roger."

The challenger goes to Paris with a special exempt entry after reaching the Basel semi-finals.







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Golf: Williams not racist, says Norman

SYDNEY (AFP) - Greg Norman insisted Monday his onetime caddy Steve Williams is not racist as the New Zealander's slur about former boss Tiger Woods threatened to overshadow this week's Australian Open.

Williams, who was Woods' caddy for 13 of his 14 Major titles before being sacked earlier this year, referred to the former world number one as a "black arsehole" during an awards dinner on Friday night in Shanghai.

His remarks were widely condemned but his current

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file photo -Tiger Woodswith his x- caddie Steve Williams

employer, Australian Adam Scott, has refused to fire him and he is set to carry the world number eight's bag at this week's event in Sydney.

Woods is also playing but the possibility of Scott and Woods being paired up on Thursday and Friday has been ruled out.

"It has nothing to do with the incident that was spoken about over the weekend. It was never going to happen anyway. No chance," tournament director Tony Roosenburg told Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

Woods was in Melbourne Monday for a round of golf with cricketer Shane Warne, Warne's fiancee Liz Hurley, and gaming tycoon James Packer.

But he refused to take questions on Williams in an interview with Melbourne radio, instead focusing on his recovery from injury.

"I've been rehabbing for so long I haven't been able to train," he said.

"Now I'm starting to get going, I'm starting to do all my explosive training again. I'm hitting faster, more explosive, my speed's come back. I'm hitting the ball distances I know I can hit the golf ball again, it's getting fun."

Norman, who is also playing in Sydney before captain-

ing the International team at the Presidents Cup in Melbourne next week, said Williams needed to be cut some slack.

"Steve's not a racist," he said of a man who carried his bag for several years at the height of Norman's own career in the 1980s before being fired.

Asked at a press conference whether Scott should sack him, the golfing icon replied: "Not at all.

Williams, 47, posted an online statement Saturday apologising to Woods and admitting his comments "could be construed as racist", while the US and European Tours have declared the matter closed.

With the scandal rumbling on, Roosenburg admitted it sharpened interest in the Australian Open.

Woods has not won since the 2009 Australian Masters in Melbourne and will be hoping The Lakes course in Sydney can help turn around his fortunes.

The Australian Open also features Woods' fellow Americans Dustin Johnson and Bubba Watson, and Australians Geoff Ogilvy, the defending champion, and two-time major runner-up Jason Day.

Poll shows 76% of Americans don't miss NBA

With the NBA at a standstill because of the increasingly rancorous dispute between owners and players, a poll released on Monday found that 76 percent of Americans are getting along fine without the league.

Polling company Poll Position released the results of its telephone survey seven days after the scheduled start of the season on November 1.

The respondents, a random sample of 1,179 registered voters nationwide, were asked: "With one week of no NBA basketball, do you find yourself missing the games?"

Overall, 76 percent said they weren't missing NBA games, 12 percent were and 12 percent did not have an opinion.

The months-old dispute has already caused the NBA to cancel all of the games scheduled for November.

NBA commissioner David

Stern has said it would take a month to get games on court once a deal is done.

Talks at the weekend failed to bring the sides together on the issue of how to divide about \$4 billion in revenue.

Stern indicated on Sunday that the league's latest offer to give players up to 51 percent of basketball related income as part of a new collective contract would expire by Wednesday.

After that, the offer could drop to 47 percent for players -- who in turn were irked by what they called an ultimatum.

According to the Poll Position survey, which was conducted on Sunday, those aged 18-29 miss the NBA the most with 29 percent saying they are missing the games, while 53 percent said they weren't and 18 percent had no opinion.

Among 30-44-year-olds, 83 percent said they didn't miss NBA basketball.



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NFL: Rodgers' Packers remain only undefeated NFL team



Quarterback Aaron Rodgers #12 of the Green Bay Packers scrambles from the pass rush in the pocket on the 1-yard line during the 4th quarter against the San Diego Chargers

SAN DIEGO (AFP) - The Green Bay Packers remained the NFL's only undefeated team Sunday, beating the San Diego Chargers 45-38 with four touchdown passes from star quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

Rodgers threw touchdowns to Jermichael Finley, Jordy Nelson, James Jones and Greg Jennings and the Packers ran back a pair of Philip Rivers interceptions for scores as Green Bay held on for the win despite a wild finish.

Rodgers completed 21 of 26 passes for 247 yards for the Packers who improved to 8-0.

He has an NFL-high 24 TD passes

"I think Aaron has a lot of strengths. His decision-making is clearly the highest level that I have personally been a part of," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said of his Super Bowl MVP quarterback.

Green Bay built a 21 point lead in the final quarter but Rivers rallied the Chargers throwing two touchdown passes to Vincent Jackson in a span of 67 seconds to get his team within seven.

The Packers' Charlie Peprah spoiled the Chargers bid to tie the game by intercepting Rivers in the final seconds.

Rivers tied his career high with four touchdown passes but also had three interceptions and San Diego (4-4) has now lost three consecutive games.

"We're fighting through a rough time right now," said Rivers. "These tough times, you find out a lot about guys, a lot about yourself."

In the late game, Joe Flacco connected with Torrey Smith for a 26-yard touchdown pass with just eight seconds left, lifting the Baltimore Ravens to a dramatic 23-20 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Smith capped the Ravens' 92-yard game-winning drive by outracing the Steelers' William Gay in the endzone as Baltimore halted the Steelers' four-game win streak.

"I didn't even know he caught it," Flacco said. "I thought everybody was celebrating because of pass interference."

Flacco finished with 298 yards passing and Baltimore swept the season series from the rival Steelers for the first time in five years.

In Foxborough, Massachusetts, Eli Manning finished off a decisive drive by throwing a one-yard touchdown pass to Jake Ballard with 15 seconds left as the New York Giants beat New England 24-20 Sunday.

The late rally brought back memories of the Giants' comeback in the 2008 Super Bowl between the same two teams, when Manning engineered a 13-yard scoring drive to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds left for a 17-14 win.

On Sunday, the Patriots appeared to be heading to victory after quarterback Tom Brady tossed a 14-yard scoring pass to Rob Gronkowski, making it 20-17 with 1:36 to go.

But New York answered with a long drive of their own that put the ball on the one-yard line with 30 seconds remaining on the clock.

Three plays later, Manning found Ballard in the end zone for the score.

In Landover, Maryland, Frank Gore ran for 107 yards, and the NFL's stingiest defence forced three turnovers as San Francisco beat Washington 19-11 to extend its winning streak to six games.

The 49ers now have their longest winning streak since 1997, improving to 7-1 on the season

Washington dropped their fourth consecutive game. They snapped a drought of seven quarters without a touchdown when they scored with 1:10 to play

In Kansas City, the Miami Dolphins won their first game of the season, dominating the Chiefs 31-3 behind quarterback Matt Moore's three touchdown passes.

Moore threw for 244 yards and running back Reggie Bush rushed 92 yards for a touchdown.

In other games, Atlanta trounced Indianapolis 31-7, Dallas defeated Seattle 23-13 and the New York Jets stopped Buffalo 27-11.

